

# Rural District Council of Stoke-upon-Trent.

(Public Health Act, 1875, and Local Government Act, 1894.)

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## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health

### *For the Year, 1904.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the Rural Sanitary District of Stoke-upon-Trent.

The area is a very wide, scattered one, containing 4938 acres, consisting of several villages:—Bucknall, Botteslow, Great Eaves, Little Eaves, Bagnall, and Stockton Brook.

The census was taken in March, 1901, the population then was 4808, but as there have been 41 houses erected, and reckoning five persons to each house, makes the estimated population 5013, so all my figures will be based upon this calculation.

During the year, 52 notifications have been received: 29 Diphtheria, 5 Erysipelas, 14 Scarlet Fever, 1 Enteric Fever, and 3 that did not belong to the Rural District. Twenty cases were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Joint Hospital Board, at Bucknall.

Where the case of Enteric Fever occurred at Washerwall, there had been a neglected cesspool. Every house where a case of Infectious Disease occurred, was visited, and on the recovery of the patient, the house and clothes were disinfected, and I am pleased to make the remark that in only one house was there a second case after the necessary sanitary measures had been adopted. A Weekly Return of the notifications have been sent to the County Medical Officer of Health, also several to the Local Government Board.

The Wells have been regularly inspected, and there has been a good supply of potable water, except in Jackhaye Lane, which is always deficient in quantity in any drought. This subject has several times been under consideration, but no definite decision has yet been arrived at, as the inhabitants of Bagnall are so adverse to any expense, as the rates are so heavy. I have made 8 analyses of water: 2 from Jackhaye Lane, 1 from Washerwall, 2 from Moor Side, and 1 from the Tompkin, at Bagnall. All these were pure and good. Two samples from the Roach Farm were contaminated, and unfit for washing dairy utensils; one was contaminated with sewage, the other is what is called "Ochre water," or runs through some iron pyrites, which impregnates it with iron. The Surveyor is in correspondence with the landlady, and shortly there will be another supply.

The COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS, and DAIRIES have been regularly inspected, and they are all in a fairly satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are nine licensed places in the Sanitary District, and all have been whitewashed regularly, and are kept in a cleanly sanitary condition. Myself and the Inspector have visited them regularly once a quarter.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are only two in Bucknall, they are in a satisfactory condition.

The NIGHT SOIL and ASHES are removed by Contract, the work has been fairly done, and since the last contractor has undertaken the work, these have been done with very few complaints.

MEASLES.—It is a remarkable fact that an epidemic of Measles broke out at Bucknall in December, 1903, and the schools had to be closed. During this last year, 1904, another epidemic began at Bagnall and Abbey Hulton, so I asked the Committee to make an order on the Educational Authority to close the schools for a month, but as such severe weather came on, and the little patients were only just recovering, it was deemed desirable to ask the Authority to continue the closure until after the Christmas holidays, as none of the children were fit to travel in snow and frost to school, just convalescent from the disease, as many would have been attacked with inflammation of the lungs. By closing the schools as soon as the epidemic started, it made the parents very careful. The Inspector and myself visited nearly every house, a good supply of leaflets was distributed, and in my imagination, we taught the inhabitants not to neglect this disease. Many people keep a child on a sofa, it is a great mistake ; as formerly, as soon as a child threatened with this disease, he was put to bed, and this is the only place a little sufferer can be treated properly. In consequence of these precautions, there was only one death. Now to go through an epidemic with only this mortality, is very creditable. Before the Schools were re-opened, they were thoroughly disinfected, and the desks washed; in my opinion, these ought to be thoroughly cleansed every vacation, as during a whole quarter it is astonishing how dirty they become.

BIRTHS.—There were registered 161 : males, 77 ; females, 84 ; only one born out of wedlock. The annual rate of increase was 32 per 1000.

The rate for the last ten years has been 35·7 per 1000.

DEATHS.—During the last year there were recorded 143 deaths, at a rate of mortality of 32 per 1000 in the estimated population ; from these may be deducted 79 deaths of persons brought from surrounding Districts that have died at the Hospitals—at the Bucknall Hospital : 31 of Diphtheria, 37 of Scarlatina, 1 of Pneumonia, and 2 of Consumption ; at the Bagnall Hospital : 1 of Enteric Fever, and 7 of Small-pox—so that really, only 64 deaths belong to the District, the death-rate would be 12·9 per 1000. The average for the last ten years has been 15·2. There have been 4 from Consumption or Phthisis, 7 of Pneumonia or Inflammation of the Lungs, 3 of Tuberculous Diseases, 1 of Jaundice, 4 of Whooping Cough, 1 of Apoplexy, 1 of Ulcer of Stomach, 4 of Convulsions, and only 1 of Enteric Fever. There were 15 deaths under one year of age.

VACCINATION.—Of the 161 births, 123 children have been vaccinated successfully ; appended is a table to shew those removed, dead, &c., but of course it must be remembered that the Vaccination Act allows each child to be four months old before the Vaccination Officer can make any enquiries, so that the table only calculates up to October, 1904.

VACCINATION RETURNS FOR 1904.

	Born	Vaccinated	Dead	Postponed	Removed	Unvaccinated
January .. ..	12	12	..	..	..	..
February .. ..	12	12	..	..	..	..
March .. ..	9	6	2	..	1	..
April .. ..	9	8	1	..	..	..
May .. ..	17	16	1	..	..	..
June .. ..	12	9	1	1	..	1
July .. ..	15	14	..	1	..	..
August .. ..	22	19	..	..	1	2
September ..	12	11	..	1	..	..
October .. ..	18	12	3	1	1	1
November ..	13	12	3	..	..	8
December ..	10	2	..	..	..	8
	161	123	11	4	3	20

Appended is a table of Sanitary Work done during the last year, also statistical table of Mortality.

**JOHN SWIFT WALKER,**  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Sanitary Inspector's Report for Year ending December 31st, 1904.

Houses and Premises Inspected	...	...	...	...	971
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	..	...	...	...	36
Schools Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	4
Notices served for Sanitary Amendment...	...	...	...	...	51
Manure Heaps Removed	...	...	...	...	1
Registered Dairies and Cowsheds Inspected every Quarter	...	...	...	...	60
Slaughter-houses Inspected every Quarter	...	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses Inspected every Quarter	...	..	...	...	2
Public Wells Inspected every Month	...	...	...	...	8
Patients removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	20
Whitewash Brushes let out	...	...	...	...	184
Infected Bedding Disinfected	...	...	...	...	60
Overcrowding of Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	5
Ashpits and Privies Repaired	...	...	...	..	17
Dwelling-houses Repaired	...	...	...	...	46
House Drainage—Defective Traps	...	...	...	...	16

GILBERT McHARG,  
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Cause of Death	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages							Deaths in or belonging to Localities (of all ages)			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up-wards	Hospital Bagnall	Hospital Bucknall	Bucknall	
Small-Pox ... ..	7	2	...	...	...	4	I	7	...	...	7
Measles ... ..	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	38	2	20	13	2	I	...	...	37	I	37
Whooping Cough ... ..	4	3	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... ..	32	...	20	II	I	...	...	...	3I	I	3I
Enteric Fever... ..	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	...	I
Diarrhoea ... ..	2	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	7	6	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ... ..	4	...	I	...	I	2	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ... ..	3	...	2	...	...	...	I	...	2	...	2
Bronchitis ... ..	14	3	2	...	...	2	7	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	7	2	2	I	...	2	...	...	I	...	I
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis ... ..	I	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ... ..	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ... ..	7	...	...	...	2	2	3	...	...	...	...
Jaundice ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Ulcer of Stomach ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
Epilepsy ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ... ..	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebral Softening ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Carcinoma of Intestiny ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
All other causes ... ..	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
All causes ... ..	143	23	52	26	7	18	17				

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
Annual Report

OF THE

Rural District of Stoke-upon-Trent,

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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